

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen attends Gala Opening of royal College of Music Opera Theatre

Prime Minister lunches with London and Scottish bankers

Mr Spicer gives Press Conference on Aviation security 2.30pm

NEDC meets

EC Fisheries Council, Brussels

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STATISTICS

DEM: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators (Nov)

DEN: Advance energy statistics (Sept) (11.30)

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PUBLICATIONS

HoC: 4th Report Transport Select Committee - Airport Security (11.00)

NAO: National Audit Office - Scottish Development Agency Accounts 1985/86 (11.00)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade & Industry; Environment

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Insurance Companies (Mr W O'Brien)

Consideration of any Lords Amendments which may be received to the National Health Service (Amendment) Bill

Opposition Prayer on the Cereals Co-responsibility Levy Regulations

Rate Support Grant (Scotland) Order

Adjournment Debate

Unemployment in Jarrow (Mr D Dixon)

Select Committees: ENERGY

Subject: The Coal Industry  
Witnesses: Sir Robert Haslam, Chairman,  
Sir Kenneth Couzens, Deputy Chairman,  
Mr J H Northard, Operations Director,  
Mr Ken Moses, Technical Director,  
Mr Malcolm Edwards, Commercial Director, British Coal

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CHANNEL TUNNEL BILL

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Westland plc  
Witnesses: Sir John Treacher (at 11.00am);  
Mr Geoffrey Pattie MP (at 11.45am)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Lords Motion to disapprove the statement of change in Immigration Rules

International Fund for Ireland (Immunities and Privileges) Order 1986. Motion for Approval

Highlands and Islands Development Board Area Extension Order 1986. Motion for Approval

UQ to ask HMG whether they are satisfied with the standard of heating in British homes, particularly in the cases of elderly people and of people on low incomes

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTECONOMY

- Telegraph leads with Chancellor being expected to announce today that he is to allow public spending to increase - almost certainly ruling out major tax cuts before the next election. Overshoot put at £4bn. Political correspondent says the overshoot will be privately welcomed by many Conservative MPs and Ministers. It also signals a pre-election truce between Chancellor and Ministers.
  - FT: The real cost of supporting sterling is revealed by the underlying fall in UK reserves. It has emerged in Whitehall that there were "differences" between you and Mr Lawson on how to respond to sterling's sharp fall during September and early October. You wanted to let sterling take the strain of speculation in the markets, the Chancellor always wanted to raise interest rates.
  - FT leader says Chancellor should not be misled by PSBR targets or unduly influenced by the ebb and flow of revenues around their forecast trend.
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- Times: The reserves slumped by £474m - the biggest fall in 4 years - as the Bank of England propped up the £.
  - Much coverage of Media Research Society's report on how life has changed in Britain since 1946.

INDUSTRY

- Express says City fees for British Gas flotation could total £114m.
- Freight Rover get orders for 1000 Sherpa vans, worth £20m, as a consequence of bus deregulation.
- Telegraph reports Britain falling behind in the use of robots, and that this is likely to be intensified by the ending of DTI funding of part of the costs, according to report.
- Times: John Moore says the Channel Tunnel project will create 100,000 man years of employment.
- FT: Fears about the safety of passengers using the Channel Tunnel are expected to be raised in a minority report accompanying the main recommendations of the Commons Select Committee report to be published soon.
- FT: Final offers from GEC and Boeing for Britain's AWAC to be submitted to MoD tomorrow.

HOUSING

- Prices soaring at four times rate of inflation. North-South gap widening.
- Peers defy Commons on amendment to Housing Bill.

TEACHERS

- Sun: Maggie's pay rise plans to teachers; you go over their heads with Kenneth Baker's letter to heads.
- Star: Maggie blasts teachers in walk-out and urges them to accept offer.
- Today: Baker gives teachers' deal the hard sell; leader headed "Teachers must settle" says if the unions do not take their chance at Nottingham this weekend Mr Baker will be right to legislate.
- Express: Maggie raps the teachers - you tear into strikers for playing havoc with children's schooling.
- Telegraph: Baker's direct mail on teachers' pay.
- Times: Fred Smithies, general secretary of the NAS/UWT, said the union would be willing to ballot its members on any settlement agreed at Nottingham. But widespread disruption would follow any attempt to impose a deal.
- Kenneth Baker has taken the unprecedented step of writing to 25,000 school heads to explain Government's pay offer to teachers (Independent).
- FT: Government ready to face more disruptive action from teachers. Legislation for imposing the settlement has already been prepared.

EDUCATION

- Miss McGoldrick, Brent schoolteacher in race row, reinstated on eve of planned sympathy strike by fellow teachers; but Council still plans to appeal to High Court.
- Express leads with claim by angry parents that Haringey Council plans to put a homosexual teacher in every school.
- Telegraph feature on Mr Baker's vision - power to the parents.

POLITICS

- Sun P1: 40% - Tories top of the poll and cockahoop. Labour 36/ Alliance 21. Voters abandoning Labour because they fear the party is controlled by Militants and because they distrust go-it-alone nuclear disarmament.
  - Star: Tories beat scandal to top poll, but Mirror says Labour is cruising to an increased majority in Knowsley N. Telegraph says Liberals are slumping.
  - Today: Poll puts Maggie back in the lead. Your rating up 9%; Kinnock's down 12%.
  - Express: New poll boost for Tories. Private Tory polls put the parties neck and neck.
  - Mail: The Tories are back on top of the poll.
  - Times: If the trend shown by the TV AM poll (Tories 40%, Labour 36%, Alliance 21%) were to continue, the pressure on you to hold an early election would increase.
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- Express leader says Hattersley cannot wait to get Labour's hands on pension money, all of which seems designed to push it down the drain.

POLITICS (CONT'D)

- Derek Jameson, in Today, reporting on a Marxist Today convention finds they have little respect for Kinnock.
- Guardian leader on Kinnock's Shadow Cabinet changes says he has failed to sort out nuclear policy.
- Sir Ian Gilmour in Independent says that the Government loses few opportunities to weaken national institutions in an unconservative and heavy handed way. The Church, the Civil Service, the BBC and local government have all suffered from the Government's attempt to extend its political control and monopolise the political agenda.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Nicholas Ridley tells councils they can reach their own individual pay settlements which they can afford. Unions protest suggesting it is a recipe for anarchy.
- Mirror: Slash pay and jobs fury.
- Express: Last union pay deals, Ridley urges councils.
- Mail leads with "Minister in pay cut row". Unions react with fury.
- Telegraph (surprisingly) only on P2 - "Ridley tells councils to curb pay costs".

- Southwark releases plans to create 6000 jobs over 2 years as part of an overall Labour job creation package.
- Liverpool park security officers on strike in protest at a move to put them under the control of Hatton's minders.
- Tory controlled Association of District Councils rejects Government plan to replace rates with a poll tax.
- Express says an investigation has been launched into alleged malpractice in running of Ealing's £86m superannuation fund.

MEDIA

- David Trippier claims that Norman Tebbit's attack on BBC bias has paid off by making the BBC act fast to stop reporting unfairly on Government policy.
- Dale Campbell-Savours MP sends transcript of a tape which he says identifies the person who was nobbled by CCO in BBC libel case to Attorney General.
- Express says Kinnock drew you into the row with BBC over Libyan coverage and added to fears among Tory backbenchers that Mr Tebbit had bungled his attack; they claim BBC is now untouchable because any changes would be seen as knuckling under to Tories.
- Express leader, commenting on BBC prominence for poll showing strong opposition to CCO's complaint of declining professional standards in news programmes, says that Norman Tebbit would agree with the answer to the question to which 88% said it should be left to Governors to influence the way the BBC covers news.
- Guardian says Mr Tebbit's over-reaction has given the BBC the opportunity and the duty to recover lost ground.
- Times: The BBC will today issue a sharply-worded reply to Mr Tebbit.
- The BBC plans a tough reply to Chairman's complaint at a specially staged conference presented by top management, minus Alisdair Milne. Kate Adie is to bring a libel action against The Daily Express (Independent).



WELFARE

- You warn Jarrow marchers they could lose dole money; Express says this caused anger in the House.
- Shelter claims hospitals are leaving mental patients on discharge from hospital to mercy of grasping landlords and suicides are increasing.
- Kenneth Clarke says the Government is not giving 850 benefit advisers individual targets for cutting the unemployment register.
- Times: The NHS could save £70m a year by making doctors more accountable for the money they spend on treating patients, Tony Newton said yesterday when announcing a cost-cutting initiative.
- FT: Special feature looks at the poverty line which is lengthening despite all the welfare benefits which have kept pace with inflation since the Government came to office.

AIDS

- George Gale, in Mirror, fears that AIDS will have to get much worse before we all start behaving better.
- Today feature says AIDS is a terrifying way to boost the values of family loyalty, but we must avoid a backlash against homosexuals and the promiscuous. The great achievement of the sexual revolution was tolerance.
- Mail leader says desperately late the Government is nerving itself to lead a counter-offensive. But is Lord Whitelaw, "this emollient grandee" the man for such a life and death crisis? He and his colleagues have far harder decisions - eg screening - to make than TV campaigns.
- Telegraph says the announcement of a Committee under Lord Whitelaw added a touch of light relief to an otherwise doom-laden issue. The British instinct when faced with an insoluble problem, is to set up a committee. But if the public appreciated that the vast majority of cases will continue to currently recognised high risk groups, support for much tougher measures by the Government might become overwhelming.
- Times: An AIDS unit is to be set up at Broadmoor.

DEFENCE

- Demonstrators ambush cruise missile convoy; Sun says they are not selfless idealists but misguided pests; Star says it would be a hoot if it were not more serious.
- Mail leader notes that in Russia the protestors would have been shot before they could reach for their paint sprays. Live theatre it may have been but CND intelligence was impressive and so was the lack of it by the convoy's defenders. This CND episode should shame them into sharpening up security.
- Telegraph speculates that Shevardnadze may offer a concession on Star Wars
- Times: Any hope of an agreement to remove SS20s, Cruise and Pershing missiles from Europe without waiting for a comprehensive East-West disarmament accord were dispelled by Shevardnadze yesterday at his meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe.
- Howe chastises Soviets over Syria and Euro-Missiles - Independent.

FALKLANDS

- Express reporting your Commons remarks yesterday, heads its story "Maggie firm on the Falklands". Argentine Foreign Minister says fishing zone is a blow to peace.
- Times: President Reagan told President Alfonsin over the telephone on Monday night that the US had no prior knowledge of Britain's decision to establish a fishing zone. Alfonsin said Argentine did not intend to respond militarily.
- FT: Argentina has asked the help of EC in the Falkland Islands fisheries dispute. Leader urges unconditional talks with Buenos Aires instead of the threat of violence which it believes is the Government's only tactic.

IRELAND

- Sun leader says the Anglo Irish accord has been a disaster for Britain with no perceptible improvement in border security. You should tell the Irish it is dead.
- Mirror says the Sampson report which has cleared the RUC is to stay secret.

LAW AND ORDER

- Inquiry into claims that a corrupt Scotland Yard officer threatened to kill a senior detective.
- Maximum jail sentence for riot cut from life to 10 years.
- Star leader says Home Secretary's proposal to let child witnesses of violent crime give evidence by video is a most welcome reform, but it makes the Government's refusal to create a new Minister for Children all the more ludicrous.
- Times: The Government is expected to resurrect its controversial proposal giving the Attorney General the right to refer apparently over-lenient sentences to the Court of Appeal.

HOSTAGES

- Mystery of Iran visit by US envoys - Iranians said to have deported them. Hostage deal being cooked up?
- Terry Waite expects to hear within 24 hours whether he can return to Lebanon to negotiate the release of 2 more US hostages.
- Iran adm's, by volunteering to intercede on behalf of France and the USA with groups within Lebanon, its central role in the hostage taking in Beirut.

TERRORISM

- Britain and Russia to hold talks in London this year on measures to combat terrorism - gets good coverage in most papers. And Mail says Foreign Secretary told Shevardnadze that East-West agreements were meaningless unless they did something for ordinary people.

PUBLIC SERVICE

- Guardian says Treasury and Civil Service is preparing a new report on accountability of Civil Servants after Westland. Taking strong exception to suggestions from Downing Street that there is a convention that the Prime Minister does not give evidence.
- Times: The Civil Service is well on the way to becoming a much more efficient government machine, says the Comptroller and Auditor General.

MI5

- Times: The British government was handling its case like a card player who reshuffles the pack time and time again to try to produce a winning hand, defence counsel in the Peter Wright case in Australia said yesterday.

SOUTH AFRICA

- The Independent - Botha announces departure from his Cabinet of Head of the Bureau of Information and Minister for Law and Order.

PAKISTAN

- Times: Pakistan is close to producing a nuclear weapon, according to Washington sources.

INDIA

- FT: Government may increase grant aid to India by backing projects worth at least £200m.

DES: Mr Baker addresses Institute of Chartered Accountants

DEM: Mr Clarke attends 'Investors in Industry' reception.

SO: Mr Rifkind and Mr Lang lunch with The Times

WO: Mr Edwards hosts lunch for Korean Ambassador, London

MAFF: Lord Belstead attends Timber Growers UK presentation lunch

MAFF: Mr Thompson presents Sheep Scale Competition prizes, London

DES: Mr Dunn with Health Education Council launches Inter Agency Materials Project on drug abuse

DEM: Mr Lee visits Equal Opportunities Commission, Manchester

DEM: Mr Trippier presents Mobil Design Award for Small Firms

DEN: Mr Hunt addresses Vith Form conference of politics students 'Privatisation of British Gas', London; addresses London Borough's Energy Managers Group, Guildhall

DOE: Lord Skelmersdale addresses INCPEN (Litter Group) annual luncheon, London

DOE: Mr Waldegrave gives interview to BBC World Service

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses Association of Women in Public Relations Conference

DHSS: Mr Newton and Lady Trumpington attend Primary Care Consultation meeting, Manchester

DTI: Mr Butcher attends CIMAP dinner

DTI: Mr Clark addresses Major Projects Association dinner

HMT: Mr Brooke visits Westminster DHSS

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MAFF: Mr Jopling and Mr Gummer attend EC Fisheries Council, Brussels

DTI: Mr Howard addressed EC Commission Colloquium on Financial Services

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TV AND RADIO

"Mavis on 4"; Channel 4 (16.00): Series on Our Public Servants features local councillors

"Analysis"; BBC Radio 4 (20.15): Can unemployment be beaten? Richard Layard in discussion with Patrick Minford

"Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 (20.30): What is in the future for South Africa? Reporter Christine Chapman

Party Political Broadcast (SDP); BBC 1 (21.00); ITV (10.00); BBC 2 (10.50)

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